

ANALYTICAL RIGOR & MATHEMATICAL FLUENCY

A Family Guide to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) — Grade 4

Welcome to Fourth Grade!

Fourth grade marks a formal transition into advanced academic rigor, abstract critical thinking, and structured state testing parameters. Fully aligned with the **New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS)**, this guide highlights the clear milestones your child is expected to reach by the end of the school year. Our district navigates these targets using the state-adopted **Savvas myView Literacy** curriculum and the **Curriculum Associates Ready Mathematics** framework. As students progress past the primary grades, foundational decoding screenings like DIBELS are completed; instead, our district utilizes the adaptive **i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment** (administered in Fall, Winter, and Spring) as our primary engine to track growth, evaluate complex skill metrics, and ensure ongoing classroom readiness.

The Crucial Role of Parents and Caregivers

In fourth grade, students interact with deeply complex informational texts, fraction operations, and multi-step math tasks. Your continuous partnership at home is vital to reinforcing these abstract concepts and encouraging academic independence.



Deepening Literacy at Home

- **Demand Evidence-Based Answers:** When discussing a book or article, ask your child to back up their claims by pointing out the specific sentence or paragraph that supports their thinking.
- **Analyze Diverse Text Features:** Read non-fiction articles or digital resources together. Prompt your child to explain how charts, timelines, captions, or maps deepen the text's meaning.
- **Refine Multi-Paragraph Writing:** Have your child practice writing multi-paragraph opinions or summaries, ensuring they link related paragraphs with clear introductory and concluding thoughts.



Strengthening Math & Multi-Step Reasoning

- **Reinforce Algorithm Recall:** Keep base arithmetic sharp by doing mental drills with larger whole number addition, multi-digit subtraction, and multiplication properties.
- **Weave Math into Real Life:** Practice fractional partitions and measurement systems during daily activities (e.g., scale conversion tables, adjusting recipes, or tracking elapsed time).
- **Review Seasonal Data Reports:** Work closely with your child's teacher to evaluate performance feedback following each diagnostic testing window to target specific home practice domains.

ELA

Language Arts & The Savvas myView Program

Fourth-grade literacy demands a transition from general comprehension to deep analytical text interrogation. Guided by **Savvas myView Literacy**, instruction relies on the *Science of Reading* to help students unpack text structures, expand precise academic vocabulary, and write clear, research-supported multi-paragraph essays.

1. Morphology, Word Study & Fluency (NJSLs RF.4.3 – RF.4.4)

With basic decoding mastered, word study shifts heavily toward morphology and structural analysis. Fourth-grade students use structural clues to decode unfamiliar multi-syllabic words by recognizing complex prefixes (e.g., anti-, inter-, trans-, semi-), advanced suffixes (e.g., -al, -ic, -ical, -ous), and Greek and Latin roots.

Fluency standards require students to read grade-level prose and poetry with absolute accuracy, an appropriate conversational pace, and precise prosody (expression) to ensure full comprehension during independent reading tasks.

2. Text-Based Reading Comprehension & Analytical Interpretation (NJSLS RL.4.1 – RI.4.10)

Students must draw explicit text evidence and handle complex structural concepts when interpreting both literary and informational genres:

- **Literature:** Students refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences. They determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, summarize the plot, and deeply analyze structural elements (e.g., acts, scenes, stanzas). They compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated (e.g., first-person vs. third-person).
- **Informational Text:** Students explain what a text says explicitly and draw inferences by citing specific text evidence. They determine the main idea of a text, explain how it is supported by key details, and provide an objective summary. Students explain organizational structures (e.g., chronological order, cause/effect, problem/solution) and integrate information from two different texts on the same topic to write or speak knowledgeably about the subject.

3. Structural Composition & Writing Mechanics (NJSLS W.4.1 – W.4.3 & L.4.1 – L.4.2)

Using the *myView* Writing Workshop, fourth graders plan, draft, and revise multi-paragraph essays that emphasize clear text evidence:

- **Opinion Writing:** Writing on a topic with a clear organizational structure, stating a clear stance, providing supported reasons backed by facts, using precise linking words (e.g., *for instance*, *specifically*, *in order to*), and providing a logical concluding section.
- **Informative & Explanatory Writing:** Examining a topic and conveying ideas clearly by grouping related information into paragraphs, incorporating precise illustrations or multimedia when helpful, using clear definitions, and developing the topic with facts, definitions, and concrete details.
- **Narrative Composition:** Developing real or imagined experiences using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences. Utilizing dialogue, pacing, and description to develop experiences or show responses to situations, and applying transitional phrases to manage event sequence.

Conventions and Grammar: Mastery of relative pronouns (e.g., *who*, *whose*, *which*) and relative adverbs (e.g., *where*, *when*, *why*). Form and use progressive verb tenses (e.g., *I was walking*; *I am walking*) and use modal auxiliaries (e.g., *can*, *may*, *must*). Students apply correct ordering of adjectives, order prepositional phrases logically, and use commas before coordinating conjunctions in compound sentences. They use quotation marks correctly to signal direct speech and apply consistent spelling patterns in multi-syllable vocabulary words.

Fourth-grade mathematics steps up to highly abstract domains: multi-digit operations using standard algorithms, multi-step algebraic equations, fraction equivalence and operations, and geometric angle measurement. Driven by **Curriculum Associates Ready Mathematics**, our classrooms follow a discourse-heavy learning cycle: **Try It** (grappling with a problem individually using a variety of strategies), **Discuss It** (explaining, comparing, and defending mathematical models with peers), and **Connect It** (linking conceptual strategies to formal mathematical equations and algorithms).

1. Operations, Algebraic Thinking, and Base-Ten Place Value (NJSLS 4.OA.A.1 – 4.NBT.B.6)

- **Multiplicative Comparison & Multi-Step Problems:** Interpret a multiplication equation as a comparison (e.g., interpret $35 = 5 \times 7$ as a statement that 35 is 5 times as many as 7). Students solve multi-step word problems using all four operations, representing these problems using equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity, and estimating to check if answers are reasonable. They identify prime and composite numbers and analyze patterns.
- **Advanced Place Value & Multi-Digit Arithmetic:** Recognize that in a multi-digit whole number, a digit in one place represents ten times what it represents in the place to its right. They read, write, and compare numbers up to **1,000,000** in expanded, word, and standard forms, and use place value understanding to round numbers to any place.
- **Standard Algorithms & Large Number Operations:** Fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm. Multiply a whole number of up to four digits by a one-digit whole number, and multiply two two-digit numbers, using strategies based on place value and properties of operations. They find whole-number quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors.

2. Number and Operations: Fractions and Decimals (NJSLS 4.NF.A.1 – 4.NF.C.7)

Fractions shift from basic identification into advanced operational computation. Using visual fraction models and number lines developed in *Ready Math*, students explain and generate equivalent fractions. They compare two fractions with different numerators and different denominators by creating common denominators or numerators, or by comparing them to a benchmark fraction like $\frac{1}{2}$.

Fraction Operations and Decimals: Understand addition and subtraction of fractions as joining and separating parts referring to the same whole. They add and subtract mixed numbers with like denominators, and solve word problems involving the addition and subtraction of fractions. Students extend their understanding of multiplication to multiply a fraction by a whole number (e.g., understanding and calculating $4 \times (\frac{2}{3})$). In decimal notation, they express a fraction with a denominator of 10 or 100 as a decimal (e.g., rewriting $\frac{62}{100}$ as 0.62), locate decimals on a number line, and compare two decimals to hundredths by reasoning about their size.

3. Measurement, Data Literacy, and Geometry (NJSLS 4.MD.A.1 – 4.G.A.3)

Students know the relative sizes of measurement units within one system of units (including km, m, cm; kg, g; lb, oz; l, ml; hr, min, sec) and express measurements in a larger unit in terms of a smaller unit within a single system using conversion tables. They apply the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles in real-world problems. For data literacy, they make a line plot to display a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$) and solve addition/subtraction fraction problems using the line plot data.

Geometric Angles and Lines: Recognize angles as geometric shapes formed wherever two rays share a common endpoint. They measure angles in whole-number degrees using a protractor and solve addition and subtraction problems to find unknown angles on a diagram. In geometry, they draw and identify points, lines, line segments, rays, angles (right, acute, obtuse), and perpendicular and parallel lines. They classify two-dimensional figures based on the presence or absence of parallel or perpendicular lines, or the presence or absence of angles of a specified size, and recognize lines of symmetry in two-dimensional figures.

ASSESS

Assessment in Grade 4: Digital Diagnostics & Readiness Tracking

In fourth grade, primary foundational decoding screeners (such as DIBELS) are no longer administered. Instead, our district uses a comprehensive diagnostic model centered around the computer-adaptive **i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment**, administered three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring).

The i-Ready Diagnostic Testing Framework

The **i-Ready Diagnostic** is an online adaptive tool matched to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The testing software adjusts its question difficulties dynamically based on student inputs. When a student answers a question correctly, the next question becomes more challenging, uncovering their full spatial and analytical capabilities; when they answer incorrectly, the system scales back to pinpoint specific hidden skill gaps. This rich diagnostic profile gives teachers immediate, clear data to design targeted classroom interventions or advanced learning acceleration to support state standards.

Diagnostic Sub-Domain	i-Ready ELA Assessment Focus (Grade 4)	i-Ready Math Assessment Focus (Grade 4)
Vocabulary & Structural Analysis	Evaluates prefix/suffix structural roots, multi-syllabic Latin and Greek morphology systems, context clues, and precise word relationships.	<i>Not an ELA focus.</i> Tracked via integrated word problem vocabulary and algebraic text parameters.
Textual Comprehension & Logic	Tests explicit detail citation, theme identification, informational text organizational structures, and synthesizing facts across multiple texts.	<i>Not an ELA focus.</i> Evaluated via multi-step word problem interpretations and mathematical layout logic.
Algebraic Thinking & Place Value	<i>Not a math focus.</i> Tracked via oral research presentations and writing workshop rubric marks.	Evaluates multiplicative comparisons, multi-step equations with variables, place value properties up to 1,000,000, and standard long division algorithms.
Fractions, Decimals, & Geometry	<i>Not a math focus.</i> Tracked via research-based informational texts and structural writing outlines.	Tests fraction equivalence, mixed number operations, decimal conversions to hundredths, protractor angle measurements, and line/shape classification.

Family Resource Hub & Recommended Reading

Use these vetted books and digital portals to support your fourth grader's academic growth and critical thinking at home.

Consolidated Reading & Curricular Portals

These classic intermediate novels and math-focused books align perfectly with fourth-grade inference and fraction conversion benchmarks:

- **"The Phantom Tollbooth"** by *Norton Juster* – A wonderful literary text for exploring advanced wordplay, idioms, and multi-layered themes, while reinforcing text-based inference and vocabulary development.
- **"Number the Stars"** by *Lois Lowry* – Ideal for teaching historical fiction text structures, main idea tracking, and how characters respond to complex events.
- **"Sir Cumference and the Great Knight of Angleland"** by *Cindy Neuschwander* – An engaging math narrative that introduces angles, protractors, and geometric lines in a kid-friendly format.

Vetted State & Curricular Web Portals

NJDOE Intermediate Education: Official state frameworks, assessment parameters, and parent support networks for upper-elementary grades.

[NJDOE Primary & Intermediate Portal](#)

NJSLS Grade 4 ELA Standards: State repository outlining specific guidelines for text citations, structural writing genres, and language mechanics.

[NJ Student Learning Standards for ELA](#)

NJSLS Grade 4 Math Standards: Full state framework detailing large-number algorithms, fraction operations, and geometric angle expectations.

[NJ Student Learning Standards for Math](#)

Curriculum Associates i-Ready Family Hub: Vetted tools to analyze diagnostic scale score reports, explore grade milestones, and view home math practice worksheets.

[Official i-Ready Family Center](#)